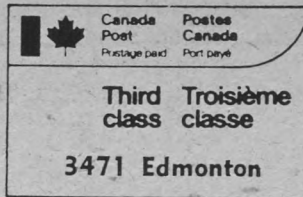




Scandinavian Centre News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



SORENSEN, SIGRO A.
702, 9923 - 103 ST.
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5K 2J3



Vol. XIX No. 24 484-1007

If undelivered return to
17614 - 107 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1G8

NOVEMBER, 1981

WITH YOUR HELP

we will have a first quality new Scandinavian Centre!

We are about to embark on an intensive share-sales campaign, and we are offering our present shareholders the opportunity to be the first to buy our new \$50.00 common shares.

Facilities for a cultural centre only will not provide us with enough revenue to pay our fixed costs and our new Centre will therefore include a Scandinavian dining room and lounge to support our cultural functions. There is no restaurant in Edmonton which specializes in Scandinavian food, and we know that such a restaurant will be a great success with non-Scandinavians as well as with our present members.

It will be a place where members can be proud to bring family and friends for an evening of fine dining and relaxation in a Scandinavian atmosphere with Scandinavian food available, and a patronage dividend is planned for shareholders.

Some of the cultural aspects which are proposed are:

- *Displays by Scandinavian-Canadian artists in every medium
- *Classes for both adults and children in —

The many types of Scandinavian needlework
Rosemaling
Folk-dancing
Scandinavian languages

- *Puppet shows
- *Library

The new Centre must be a worthy representative of the Scandinavian culture and a cozy meeting place for its members.

WHAT WILL THE NEW SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE COST? IT DEPENDS ON YOU!

The more money we have available, the less we will have to finance at today's exorbitant interest rates, and the less it will cost. The more money we are able to raise the more programs we can initiate. The more money you invest in our heritage, the better the quality of

the interior finishings and furniture of the new Centre.

We urge you to support your Centre by buying an additional share or two. Get your family involved in their cultural background and traditions by buying shares for them too — perhaps for Christmas.

Phone us at 484-1007 (Jens or Gudrun), or drop into the office if you need more information.

FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM NOW and mail it with your cheque or money-order to:

Scandinavian Centre
17614 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5S 1G8

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUING SUPPORT

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

I HEREBY OFFER TO PURCHASE shares in the SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED, at the par value of FIFTY (\$50.00) DOLLARS per share.

I enclose herewith the sum of \$ and agree to pay the balance as follows:

.....

.....
(the full purchase price to be paid before the expiration of one year)

No presentation or guarantees other than those contained in the Prospectus filed by the Scandinavian Centre Co-operative Association Limited have been made to me as an inducement to purchase the said share(s).

DATED at, in the Province of

this day of, A.D. 19

Purchaser's Signature

Witness

The following information is for use only in determining programs and compiling statistics as they relate to our shareholders. If you wish to leave all or any questions blank, please do so.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Full Name Age

Address Telephone No.

..... Postal Code

Do you belong to one of the five Scandinavian Societies? Yes No

If Yes, which one

Ethnic Origin Occupation

We sincerely thank Mr. Willy Nielsen of Edmonton who has purchased the first two shares in our fund-raising campaign for the new Scandinavian Centre.

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459-3706

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Please advise **The Scandinavian Centre News** as soon as possible of any change of address. Cut out your name and address from the front page and paste it in the space below, or print your old address. If you get your paper through another group other than being a shareholder, kindly mention this.

And then give your new address and mail to:
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17614 - 107 Ave., Edmonton T5S 1G8

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Prov. _____ Post Code _____

I now receive the paper from:

- ☐ Scandinavian Centre (Shareholder)
☐ Danish Society
☐ Icelandic Society
☐ Vasa Lodge
☐ Finnish Society
☐ Sons of Norway
☐ Some other source

Scandinavian Centre News

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Non-members may subscribe to the Scandinavian Centre News at a cost of \$6.00 for the above time period.

Any subscriptions, advertising, payment, change of address or other correspondence should be addressed to:

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14220 - 125 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
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SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

PREFERRED SHARES

The mail is coming in large, strapped bundles as we deal with preferred share applications. Because there has been considerable delay in the delivery of some mail, the Board has extended the deadline for the return of these to November 30th.

There still seems to be a number of misunderstandings with regard to the program. If you have any questions please phone Eileen Peterson at 459-3706, or the Centre office at 484-1007, or drop us a line at 17614 - 107 Avenue, Edmonton, T5S 1G8.

CITY OF EDMONTON

Our request for the return of our option money from the City was referred to the Economic Affairs

Committee and President Eileen Peterson appeared at that meeting and explained the scope of the problems we have had. The matter was referred by that committee back to the administration for the answers to more questions. It will again be on the agenda of Economic Affairs before being returned to City Council, and we have requested that we be allowed to be heard at that Council meeting.

SHARE-SALES

We are looking very carefully at every alternative and every possible location for our new Centre and this involves a lot of time. In the meantime we ask for your support so that we can have the best possible Scandinavian Centre from every aspect.

SCANDINAVIAN SEMINAR

Scandinavian Seminar is now accepting applications for its 1982-83 academic year abroad in Denmark, Finland, Norway, or Sweden. This unique learning experience is designed for college students, graduates, and other adults who want to study in a Scandinavian country, becoming part of another culture and learning its language. A new one-semester program, only in Denmark, is also now available.

After orientation in Denmark and a 3-week intensive language course, generally followed by a family stay, students are placed individually at Scandinavian Folk Schools or other specialized institutions, where they live and study with Scandinavians of diverse backgrounds. The Folk Schools are small, residential educational communities intended mainly for young adults. Both historically and socially, these schools have played an important part in the development of the Scandinavian countries. Midway through the folk school year, all the

Seminar students and staff meet in the mountains of Norway to discuss progress and make plans for the spring. A final session is held at the end of the year to evaluate the year's studies and experiences.

Because the Scandinavian countries are small, open, and accessible, the year provides an unusual opportunity for the student to explore his or her particular field of interest by doing an independent study project. On the basis of a detailed written evaluation of their work, most college students receive full or partial academic credit for their year.

The fee, covering tuition, room, board, and all course-connected travels in Scandinavia, is \$5,900. Interest-free loans are granted on the basis of need, as are a few partial scholarships.

For further information, please write to: SCANDINAVIAN SEMINAR, 100 East 85th Street, New York, N.Y. 10028, U.S.A.

Regular weekly flights are available all year to Aalborg, Aarhus, Bergen, Billund, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Gothenburg, Helsinki, Karup, Kristiansand, Odense, Oslo, Skrystrup, Sønderborg, Stavanger, Stockholm, Thisted and Trondheim.



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METAL DETECTOR Fills Important Gap in Swedish-American History



Old scissors, door hinges, brass harness beads, and other artifacts surround a partly-decomposed and rare "six-plate" stove door, all recovered recently with a metal detector in the Bishop Hill (Illinois) historical area.

The full restoration of the Bishop Hill Historical Site near Galesburg, Illinois, is one step closer to completion as a result of an important recent find with an electronic metal detector.

Ron Nelson, an historian and a spokesman for the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, feels that the recent recovery of a buried and extensively-corroded "six-plate" stove door may well provide the vital link in a chain of uncertainties about the area's early history.

The late-August search for miss-

ing artifacts was sponsored by White's Electronics, manufacturers of mineral/metal detectors whose headquarters are in Sweet Home, Oregon. The 10-day search for rumored - but yet undiscovered - artifacts yielded several items that may form the basis for a full-scale archeological dig in Bishop Hill.

A thriving and uniquely self-sufficient group of as many as 1,100 Swedish immigrants inhabited the Bishop Hill Colony from its founding in 1846 to its

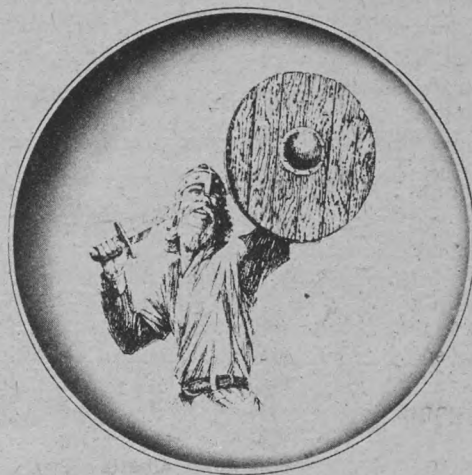
demise in 1862. Many of their descendants remain in the designated Historical Area today, actively and voluntarily involved in reconstructing lost bits of their past.

"This is an incredibly important find," Nelson commented. "Until now, we have had no stoves that we could be sure had existed in the Colony period. We'll have this cleaned by electrolysis, and we should then be able to tell exactly what kind it was. It may even have part or all of the name on it."

An employee of White's Electronics, Larry Johnson, had used his metal detector independently in the Bishop Hill area on numerous occasions since 1969. On each trip, including this latest one, all objects recovered were donated to the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and many are currently on exhibit in the town's three museums. Among his finds over the years are several rare post-Colony period coins, brass buttons believed to have been manufactured in Sweden, hundreds of individual pieces of type buried beneath the town's church and believed to have been those used to print Colony prayer books, and a fully-engraved advertising plate in the English language.

Johnson, an experienced "coin-shooter", may feel somewhat frustrated that he has yet to recover a single Swedish coin from the Colony days, or any American coin dated earlier than 1863. The Bishop Hill Heritage Association, however, feels that this fact verifies an assumption that Colonists had no need to carry any money, and that the purchase and distribution of all necessary goods was done instead through a central fund.

"THE SWORDSMAN," BY FLOYD JOHNSON, ANNOUNCED AS THE BING & GRONDAHL HERITAGE PLATE FOR 1981



For the second consecutive year, Minneapolis artist Floyd Johnson's design has been chosen for reproduction on the limited edition Bing & Grondahl Heritage Plate. This 1981 plate, "The Swordsman," follows Johnson's 1980 design of "The Helmsman."

Bing & Grondahl Heritage Plates are distributed by Danish-American Heritage, Inc. of Solvang, California, and will be available at dealers throughout the country.



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DANISH 5:30 - 5:50 p.m.

NORWEGIAN 5:50 - 6:10 p.m.

SWEDISH 6:10 - 6:30 p.m.

WHEN TORSKE AND EDMONTON MET



Allan G. Bleiken

The October meeting of Torske Klubben was a far different experience than the one at the Army & Navy Club. Members turned out in full force and extra tables had to be set up. Nearly one hundred graced the tables as they sat to Jens' cooking again. The supper was super and with the fellowship and plenty of Akvavit, could it be any better?

Yes it could! After Boss Sev Berge made all the introductions, and the jokes were banded about, Anders Anderson introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Allan G. Bleiken, General Manager of Business Development for the City of Edmonton.

Mr. Bleiken's ancestors hail from Valdre Konnen, just north of Oslo near Rondsffjorden. Allan was educated at U. of A. and the Banff School of Advanced Management and has been 22 years in Corporate Marketing. He is married, has two children and has lived in Edmonton for the past 15 years.

He has represented Canada, and specially Edmonton, around the world. His slide presentation of Edmonton was excellent, and with him acting as our ambassador we can be proud of being from Edmonton. With the vast possibilities and the doubling population it seemed almost scary - Edmonton and Alberta are attracting industries from around the world.

At the conclusion of his talk he was deluged with questions concerning the influx of people to the area. He answered each question and all were well satisfied. Rollin Carols thanked our guest speaker and presented him with further liquid refreshment. The evening was rounded out with the usual friendly groups either talking of Edmonton or telling their own fish stories.

The next meeting, November 3rd, will again be at the Ottwell Community Hall. The evening is planned as Youth Nite, when children of the members join to enjoy the festivities. Kaare Askildt will present a film on skiing, with emphasis on Ski for Light.

Nomination time is around the corner for a new Boss. Remember December 8th will be Ladies Night, it should prove to be another mammoth affair!

FOR INFORMATION ON FLIGHTS TO SCANDINAVIA

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ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

by Ninna Campbell

The Icelandic Society of Edmonton (Nordurljos Chapter) resumed its fall activities with a picnic at Hawrelak Park on September 27th. An overcast sky did not deter some thirty hardy members from attending and enjoying the outing.

Many members of the Society are participating in a 'Scandinavian Food Fair' being held at the Westin Hotel from October 13th to November 1st. A full schedule has been arranged complete with

singers, dancers, exhibitors and demonstrations from each Scandinavian group.

The annual meeting and supper was held at the Kinsmen Field House on October 25th.

The Christmas Party will be held at the Kinsmen Field House on December 6th at 2:00 p.m. Additional information can be obtained from President Solli Sigurdson at 437-2923.

VERSATILE MUSICIAN



Edwin Erickson

by Olaf Sveen

My friend and former accordion student Edwin Erickson shot a bear right in his yard at Buck Lake this summer.

The bear came wandering into the yard one morning, but Edwin did not appreciate that kind of visitor, and neither did his wife Pauline, especially since they have two youngsters. So right away Edwin got his 30-30 rifle out, but he was low on ammunition - only one bullet - and he was afraid that if he only hurt the bear a little bit, it would get angry and attack. Pauline ran in the house and started looking for bullets, but Edwin did not have the patience to wait! He fired anyway and luckily the 450-lb. bear was shot dead right

away.

Edwin is a versatile man: in the picture we can see that he is both a hunter and an accordion player. Please notice the nonchalant way he holds the electronic accordion. Also notice that he shoots "links" as we said in Norway, and that the rifle he is holding is not a 30-30 but my old faithful Krag-Jorgensen.

Edwin has his own publishing company, Buck Mountain Music, and he recently had a folio of "New Old-Time Music" published. I also have something I put together in that book - a waltz called "Sweet Susanna". I realize that might be considered a ridiculous title; I was going to call it "Life in the Finland Woods", but that was taken.



STOCK POT NEWS

by Jens Norgaard Gron

We are now quite settled in at our new office. A.G.T. finally brought us a telephone after weeks of waiting. We could not compete with the demands set upon them by the new West Edmonton Mall. Our new phone number is 484-1007.

We have been busy lately, working on the paperwork for the share sales and trying to get our membership address-list up-to-date. Many of the members have moved without notifying us, and we would appreciate it if those that have moved, or will be doing so in the near future, would phone us or send us a change of address card.

Gudrun held the fort alone for a couple of weeks while I was up north of Hinton with Garry our old bartender. She has her leg in a cast these days so she couldn't go hunting with me anyway. But now we are both hard at it, so your phone calls and letters will be answered as quickly as possible.

I'd like to extend my congratulations to Kim Pedersen from our former staff for winning a scholarship to help him with his studies at NAIT. I hope we can corner him when the new centre opens.

I would also like to thank the ethnic groups for their reports on the history and activities of the ethnic groups. If anyone else has any information on the history of the centre in general or a Scandinavian group in particular, please write it down and send it in to us.

GENERAL MEETING SEES GOOD TURNOUT



NEW MEMBERS: BACK ROW — Henry Undheim, Ivor and Ilmi Joyem, Orlen Bratvold;
FRONT ROW — Conrad and Jill Johnson, Jean Bratvold



Secretary Bea Huser, Acting President Gary Johnson, Treasurer Martin Enokson

A very exciting General meeting was held at the Captains Cabin, Oct. 15th with over 50 members present; the telephone committee certainly got results!

Past President Gary Johnson took the meeting as President Jan Burt, although present was still recuperating.

Seven new members were initiated into the Club, including Jean and Orlen Bratvold, Ivor and Ilmi Joyem, Conrad and Jill Johnson, and Henry Undheim. Each received their pin and signed

the register. It was quite a night.

Committee reports followed the meeting. The Winter Games Committee report all is good and they are working toward a successful event. The record the Freeloaders made has been completed, and sounds like a hit parade number; Congratulations certainly are in order. The sale of the Norwegian Cook Books is well under way; the balance of the books are on the way or have already been received at this time.

It was announced that the Lutfiske Supper had to be cancell-

ed, because of poor support, possible location, and numerous other reasons. There are still possibilities for the Lutfiske Dinner to be held at some later date.

Norwegian Whist was the theme of the evening, and five tables were in full play. Bernie and Kay Olafson, together with Cliff and Edith Johnson, hosted the entertainment. After many good and/or poor hands the games were called. Henry Logan received High Men's prize, Betty Broen High Ladies', while Low Man award went to new member Henry Underheim, and

Low Lady to Betty McKevitt.

Next meeting, an important one, is when the nomination committee will take over the agenda to select the new executive for the New Year. This meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 14th, at the Captain's Cabin. As is the annual practice, Bingo will be called with members and their families participating, followed by lunch.

It will be announced at that time when and where the Christmas party program will be held.

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FINNISH FOOTNOTES

by Anja Sahuri

Congratulations to Linda and Pentti Sipari on the birth of their daughter, Jennifer Fay, on September 21, 1981.

Recent visitors to Edmonton and to Augustana Lutheran Church were Pastor and Mrs. Alex Koski from U.S.A.; also visiting were Pastor Pauli Vaala and his daughter.

A surprise birthday party was held in honor of Juhani (John) Sahuri on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Many friends came to wish him Happy Birthday on that day. The flowers were presented by Anja Leino and the gifts were presented by Sirkka Ristola on behalf of everyone. Pentti Sipari brought greetings on behalf of Finnish Society. Flowers, cards, telegrams and gifts from friends and relatives both from Canada and in Finland reminded John that people care and they remember. Delicious luncheon was enjoyed by all and the evening continued till the early hours in the morning with dancing and talking. We all hope that you enjoyed the day - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHN.

Belated Birthday Greetings to Mr. Thomas Nahkuri on his recent special Birthday, which he celebrated in Vancouver.

Congratulations to Seppo and Kaija Pesonen on the recent birth of their baby.

A special thank you to all who helped me celebrate my birthday on Oct. 3, 1981. Thank you to Finnish Society for flowers, and thank you all for gifts, flowers and cards that I received. Special big THANK YOU to Anja and Veikko Leino and to Sirkka and Vilho Ristola for all the work they put into arranging the party.

Sincerely - John Sahuri.

My sincere thanks to Finnish Society for flowers I received in honor of my 70th birthday.

- Thomas Nahkuri.

COMING UP

Oslo plays host to the World Ski Championships February 18-28 '82, and the new Holmenkollen Hotel will serve as official headquarters during the spectacular event. This World-Class event will draw hundreds of skiers and spectators from North America.

VISIT

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SOLGLYT HOLDS LEIF ERIKSON NIGHT

The Leif Erikson Night supper and dance program on October 17 in the Papaschase Room of the Faculty Club U. of A. was a most successful venture. There were over 100 members and guests present, and they thoroughly enjoyed the supper, wines and festivities.

Ken Domier certainly had the evening organized and those pre-

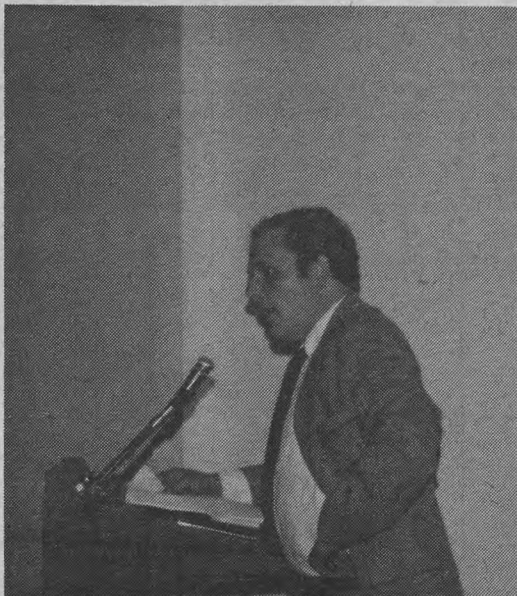
sent spent a cozy evening; it was close quarters for all, so it was a friendly night. Norwegian decor was clearly visible in the ornamental ship display and rug.

Chris Hale was called upon to tell the Leif Erikson saga which he explained with all the glorious details. He said that the Norwegian

explorer found America over 500 years before Columbus landed on the Bahamas. Erik the Red and his son Leif were acclaimed the discoverers. He told of the several voyages made, the hardships, and the failure to remain in Newfoundland. But to this date Norwegians hold the undisputed honour-proven first to land on

American soil.

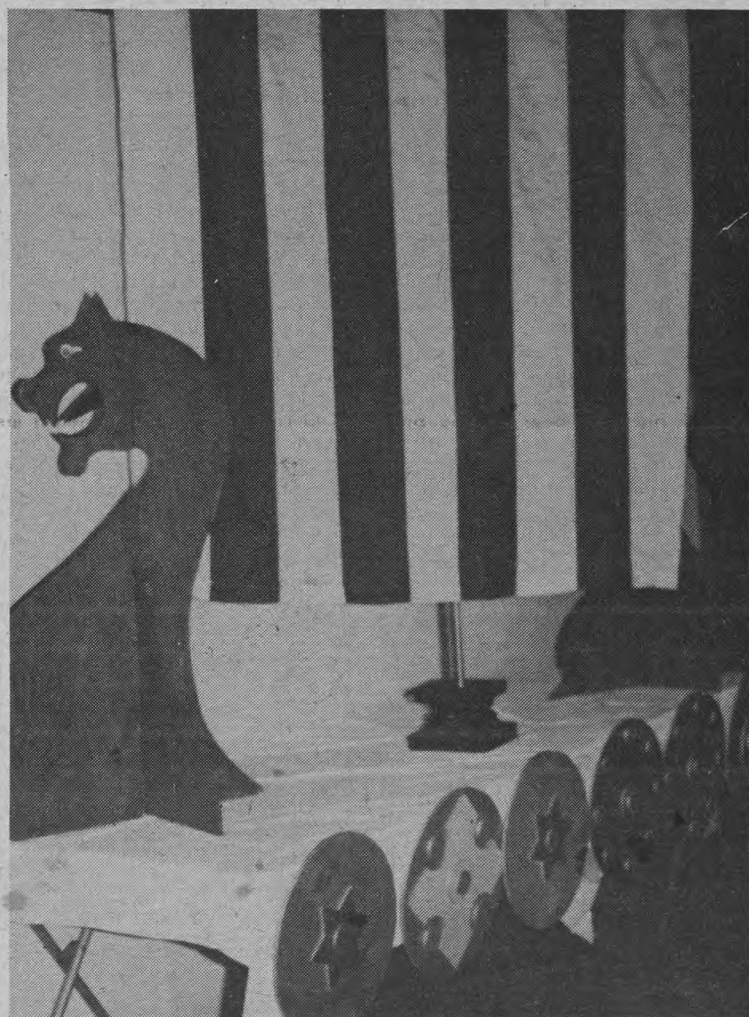
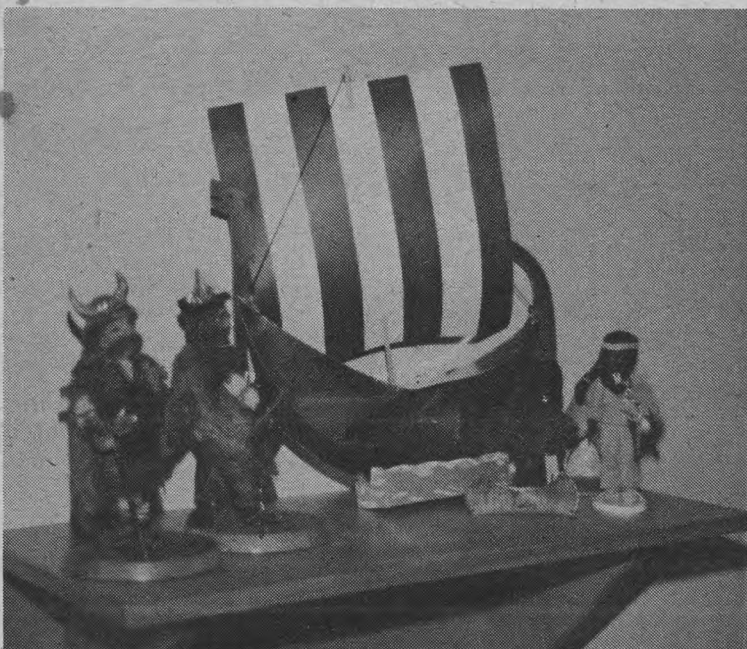
This annual function will go down as another of one of many memorable and successful events of this year. A vote of thanks for the organization, planning and success goes out to Ken Domier and those who worked with him in promoting the event.



Chris Hale relates the saga



Bernie Olafson, Betty McKevitt, Alf Olafson and Henry Logan enjoy the festivities



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Agnes Burt nets over 35 goldfish from the backyard pool for winter indoor tank

Said Leif to Chris (FROM SONS OF NORWAY "Viking")

While journeying in "the other world"
(Won't tell the destination!)
Leif chanced to meet with Christopher
And, without hesitation,
Said: "I hear that you've been telling folks
You found the New World, too.
Your only trouble is that I
Got there ahead of you!"

"We wouldn't quibble if it were
A year or two, or so—
But when it comes to centuries
My boy, you gotta go!
To say you found the New World
Reduces me to tears
Considering that I beat you by
Close to five hundred years!"

"I hear you boy, Diego,
Wrote a book about his Dad
In which he said you looked for help
Where e'er it could be had;
Now, that was very smart of you,
To be fair Iceland's guest
Fifteen whole years before you sailed
To "find" the New World, west.

"For there in Iceland, you conversed
With Vikings who had been
On voyages to that far land—
They called it 'Vinland', then;
So, when at last you set your sails

And headed west, you knew
That Vikings bold had blazed the trail
Five centuries before you!

"Oh, I'll admit my crewmen
Were lax in penmanship;
They were so busy finding things
They were inclined to skip
The job of keeping records
It was an imposition!
Not one of them had ever got
An 'A' in Composition!"

"But we left marks, crude, I'll admit,
On stone, in tower, and mound—
For them as really looks for it,
Our records can be found;
You with your three ships, covered, too,
Against our open boat!
So, when you claim the New World,
You really get my goat!"

"You even botched the job you did
And missed the Mainland, too.
Gosh knows that it was big enough!
But man, what did you do?
You picked an island 'way off shore!
YOU found the New World? Phew!
'Discoverer of San Salvador'
'BIG DEAL!' I say to you!"

Hilda Gudrun Moe South Glastonbury, CT

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Bride and groom — Brian Grosseth and Cindy Berg



From the fjord of the church: Master of Ceremonies (Knut Haga); Minister (Emil Dorin); flower-girl (Kara Martin); ring-bearer (Harold Hale); groom (Brian Grosseth); bride (Cindy Berg); Anne Heggen, Denny Haugen and Astrid Hope followed by the wedding party

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SCANDINAVIAN KITCHEN CORNER

Beverages

Swedish glogg

Glögg

8 servings

- 1 (26-ounce) bottle dry red wine or
- 1 (26-ounce) bottle aquavit
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 5 cloves
- 6 cardamom seeds, crushed
- 1 orange peel spiral
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup raisins

Combine wine, sugar, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom and orange peel in saucepan; stir to blend. Let stand 3 to 4 hours. Heat, but do not boil. Light with a match and pour burning into heatproof cups containing a few almonds and raisins.

Swedish mumma

Mumma

4 to 5 servings

- 1 (12-ounce) bottle dark beer, chilled
- 1 (12-ounce) bottle light beer, chilled
- 1 (12-ounce) bottle ale, chilled
- 1/4 cup gin

Combine all ingredients in a large well chilled pitcher; stir to blend. Serve immediately.

Fruit juice glogg

Saftglögg

6 servings

- 2 cups apple juice
- 1 cup grape juice
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 4 cloves
- 1 orange peel spiral
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1/3 cup slivered almonds

In saucepan, combine juices, sugar, spices and orange peel spiral; bring just to a boil. Place several raisins and almonds in punch cups. Remove cloves, cinnamon and orange peel spiral from juice; pour into cups.

Danish wine cooler

Vinbowle

12 servings

- 2 orange slices
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brandy
- Ice
- 1 (26-ounce) bottle dry white wine, chilled
- 1 (12-ounce) bottle club soda, chilled

Place fruit in tall pitcher; sprinkle with sugar. Press fruit with back of spoon to release flavor. Add brandy. Chill 1 to 2 hours. Add ice and wine; stir to blend. Add club soda just before serving.

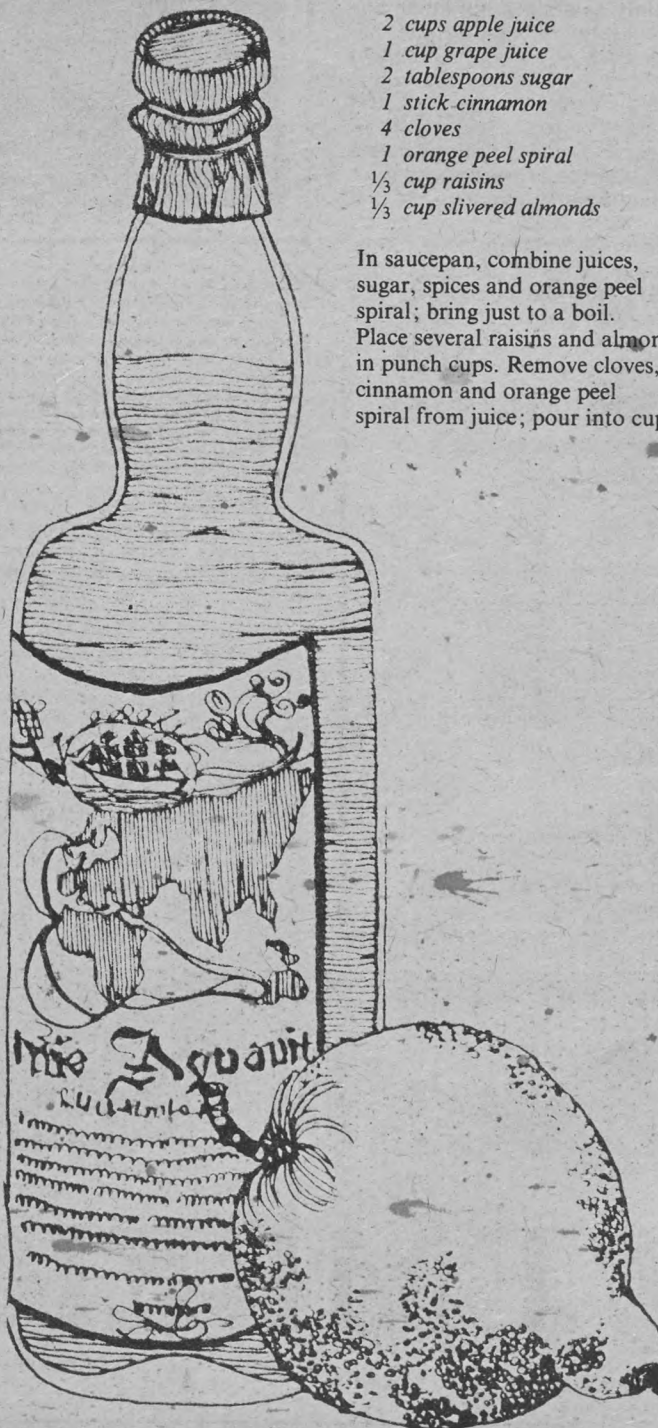
Norwegian eggcream

Eggedosis

Makes 1 quart

- 10 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup brandy
- Nutmeg

Beat egg yolks and sugar together until thick and creamy, about 5 to 7 minutes. Gradually add brandy; beat until well blended. Pour into punch bowl or individual punch cups. Sprinkle with nutmeg.



The Camps of the Vikings

By TAGE E. CHRISTIANSEN

M.A., Curator,
the National Museum of Denmark,
Copenhagen
(From "Danish Journal")

The Vikings. Highly trained, toughened pick troops, the "leathernecks" of those days, the men whom King Sven put in the field. The crucial evidence is the fortified Viking camps in Denmark, which have given an insight into a highly organized military system... Or? Should these distinctive installations be seen in another context? The author discusses the latest research on the camps.

How did the lilliput kingdom of Denmark manage, in 1013, to subjugate the far greater England?

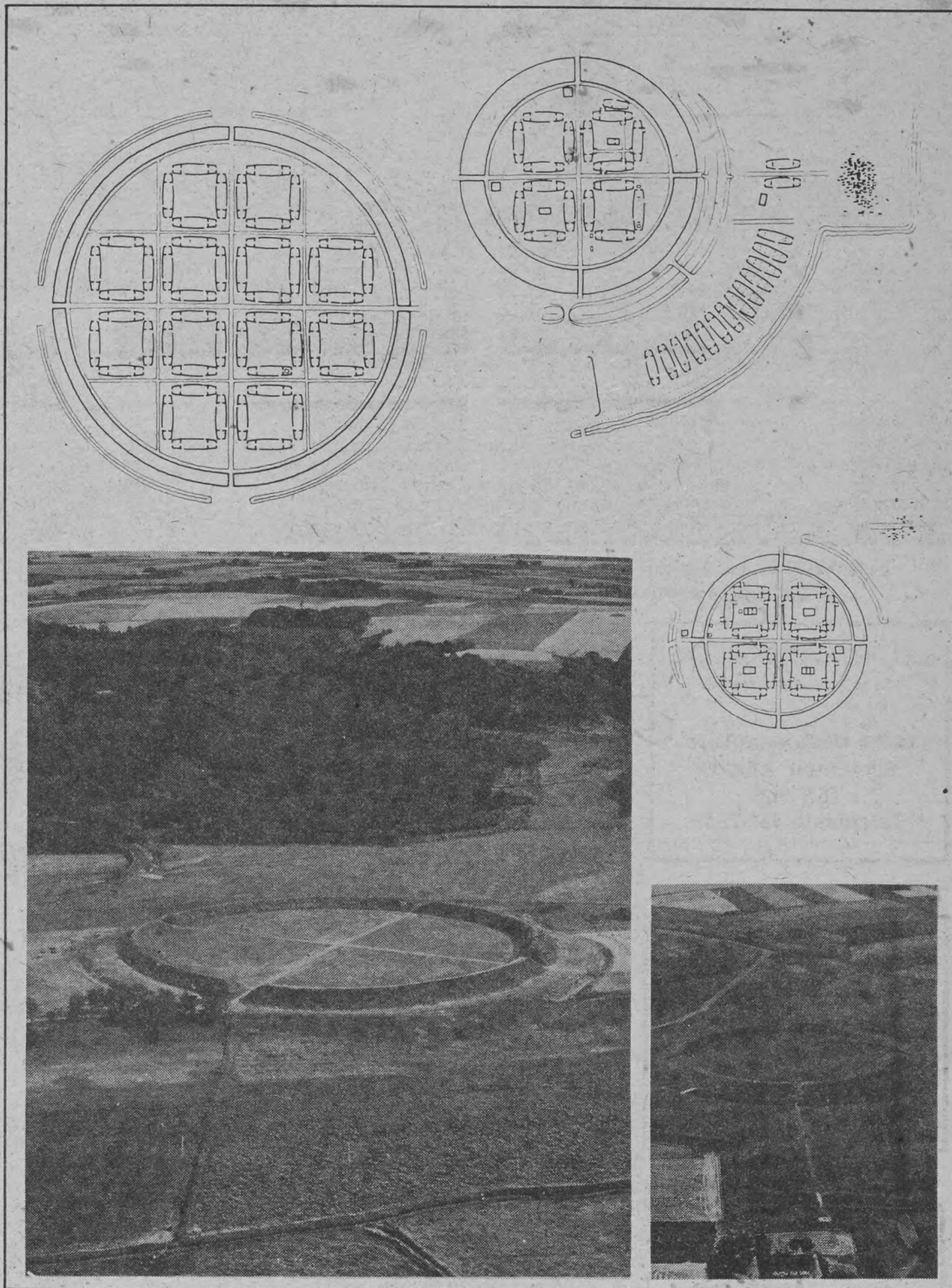
The chief blame for the disaster always used to be laid on the Anglo-Saxon king, Aethelred II, significantly called 'the Unready'. After small Viking fleets had for something like ten years harassed the south coast of England, Aethelred in 991 resorted to the desperate expedient of paying the leader Olav Tryggvason, later king of Norway, 10,000 pounds of silver to get the fleet to go home. It was desperate because, of course, the Vikings would now return again and again for as long as there was silver to be had. An expedition to England in 994 was Olav's last, but for the Danish king, Sven Forkbeard, who went with him, it was the first of many. The word 'Vikings' tends to shed a romantic glow on the Danish raids against England. But in this context the term is synonymous with 'robbers', 'bandits', 'killers', etc. King Aethelred's foolish order to massacre every Dane in England on 13 November 1002 was enough to give King Sven's English expeditions in the subsequent years a thin veneer of morality. But the ransom money, Danegeld, was the chief incentive, and for every fresh raid the sum was pushed up. In 1001 it was 24,000 pounds of silver; in 1007, 36,000 pounds. In 1012 Sven's henchman Thorkild demanded — and got — all of 48,000 pounds of silver; though, to be sure, he had to promise to serve the English with 45 ships. It was a last attempt by King Aethelred to stem the rising tide.

Modern historical research does not credit the exploits of kings with any great importance, but instead

fixes attention on the economic preconditions of any course of events. In this case the things seem to go together. It was Aethelred's lack of resolution that started decades of declines in England's economy through Danegeld. And yet... It is none the less remarkable how easily England went down in 1013 before Sven Forkbeard's invasion troops. Even Thorkild's dearly bought ships could not save Aethelred from the operetta role of king without a country.

In 1925, the great Danish historian Erik Arup (1876-1951) came to the conclusion that the conquest of England could only be explained by the fact that Sven Forkbeard was an organizational genius, who had succeeded in reducing the Viking war to a system. For twenty years, this assertion remained hanging, so to speak, by a thread. But in the years around the Second World War it was brought, in a very tangible way, down to earth, by the discovery in Denmark of a number of distinctive military installations which could be dated by means of objects found on the sites to the final phase of the Viking period.

The series began with the exploration of Trelleborg in western Zealand, which was excavated in 1934-41 by Poul Norlund (1888-1951), director from 1938 of the National Museum of Denmark. The war years delayed the scientific study of the finds, and Norlund's model publication on Trelleborg did not appear until 1948. In the meantime, two similar installations had been identified: one the smaller Fyrkat at the head of Mariager Fjord, in eastern Jutland (so far as only a possible parallel); the other — Aggersborg on the northern shore of the Limfjord, about halfway between the Kattegat and the North Sea — identified by trial digs in 1945-46 with certainty as a close but much bigger link with Trelleborg. Here — at Aggersborg — it was the architect C.G. Schultz (1905-58) who supervised the exploration, and in 1951 he also began excavations of Fyrkat. He failed to complete either, but the investigations were continued after his death by Olaf Olsen (born 1928), now Professor of Medieval Archaeology at Aarhus. The work on Fyrkat was concluded in 1977 with the publication of a two-volume work of the same high



Aerial view of Trelleborg, seen from the southeast. The topography of the landscape has changed significantly since the Viking age; the area west of the camp is now intersected by streams where formerly it was an inaccessible swamp. This explains why it was necessary to protect the camp by ramparts on the landward side only. — All plots are marked in the grass by means of concrete cast into the holes left by the earthmounted timber in the subsoil clay. In the lower right stands the model house, which purportedly was erected outside the camp area proper.

The plans of Aggersborg, Fyrkat and Trelleborg clearly show both the close relatedness of the three camps and the mathematical precision which is their hallmark. The rigorously geometric design is broken only at Trelleborg where the outer rampart and moat are sharply deflected in order to enclose the burial site of the camp. At Fyrkat, the burial site lies unprotected, while at Aggersborg it has not yet been discovered.

Experimental reconstruction of the Fyrkat rampart. The construction of the circular ramparts of the Viking age rests on identical principles, with abundant use of timber which made them nearly unconquerable but also highly vulnerable to fire arrows. Both Fyrkat and Trelleborg were ravaged by fire although its cause is unknown. The four gates of the camp were probably covered, making an integral part of the roof of the rampart.

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standards as Poul Norlund's Trelleborg monograph. Whether the study of Aggersborg will be fully realized in our generation may be doubted; the task is enormous. The possibility of excavating the fourth, and so far final, link in the chain — Nonnebakkén in Funen — is problematic. This site is now almost in the centre of the city of Odense, and where is the house-owner who will sacrifice his herbageous border on the altar of archaeology?

Nothing in these four Viking strongholds accords with the customary idea of the Vikings as a motley horde of barbarians, lured

into making long expeditions by an instinctive urge to pillage and pummel. Nothing, nothing at all, was left to chance. Everything was performed with mathematical exactitude and superb skill. One senses behind these installations an established technical tradition, and is at once reminded of the officer engineers of the Roman expeditionary armies who would mark-out the ground plan of a camp. First, two principal streets would be laid out crossing one another at right angles — quartering the camp and leading to the four gates of the surrounding palisade. It is a pattern clearly identifiable in the Viking

camps. But the differences also are apparent. The ground plan of the Roman camp was square or oblong, never circular. If there is a connection going back to classical antiquity there must have been stepping-stones on the way, and interest at present is concentrating on a group of circular camps in south-west Holland. Trial digs of a site at Oost-Souburg on the island of Walcheren at the mouth of the Scheldt, which seems to have been constructed shortly before 900, have revealed an installation differing in only one respect from the

Cont'd on page 8

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NOVEMBER 15, 1981

Camps of the Vikings Cont'd from page 7



Splendid axe with silver inlays, found in a grave at Trelleborg. The women's and children's graves weaken the comparison between Trelleborg and the legendary Jomsborg although most of the bodies buried are those of younger men who in several instances have

been laid to rest in common graves. In a grave with as many as ten bodies one had had his femur severed immediately above the knee. The injury must have been fatal, and presumably the ten men fought around Trelleborg rather than across the North Sea.

Danish: the houses inside the circular rampart do not form uniform four-armed rows. Possibly, therefore, the idea of fitting a row system into the camp pattern is a Danish invention. But the conversion of the quadrilateral Roman camp into a circular one must rather be assigned to the Carolingian Empire, which deliberately aimed at the development of classical culture.

The surprising regularity which characterizes the architecture of the Viking camps has communicated itself to the scientific conception of their function. In Scandinavian history-writing from the Middle Ages there is a tradition that in the Viking period there was a masterpiece of the art of fortification, an ideal castle — called Jomsborg — whose warrior community, the invincible Jomsvikings, feared nothing, not even death. 'Strike me straight in the face,' pleaded one of them when, defeated and bound, he waited to be beheaded, 'and note well whether I blink; we have often spoken of it.' The axe fell as desired. He did not blink. He was a true Jomsviking.

In his critical pioneer studies of early Scandinavian history at the beginning of this century, the Swedish historian Lauritz Weibull (1873-1960) with good reason relegated Jomsborg and the Jomsvikings to the world of fable. Yet in 1948 Poul Norlund came to the result that Trelleborg could best be characterized as a Zeland Jomsborg. 'There were indeed such strongholds,' he asserted. 'Superbly fortified, they were places where virile young men, under severe discipline and fixed regulations, were trained for the military profession and fierce expeditions overseas.' Erik Arup had been right. Sven Forkbeard was truly the born organizer, 'the Scandinavian Caesar', as he was dubbed by the author Martin A. Hansen (1909-55), inspired by Trelleborg. The conquest of England was no longer unaccountable. They were highly trained, toughened pick troops, the 'leathernecks' of those days, the men whom King Sven put in the field. The crucial evidence is the fortified camps, which have given us 'an insight into a highly organized military system, a discipline of inflexible, almost pedantic consequence' (Norlund).

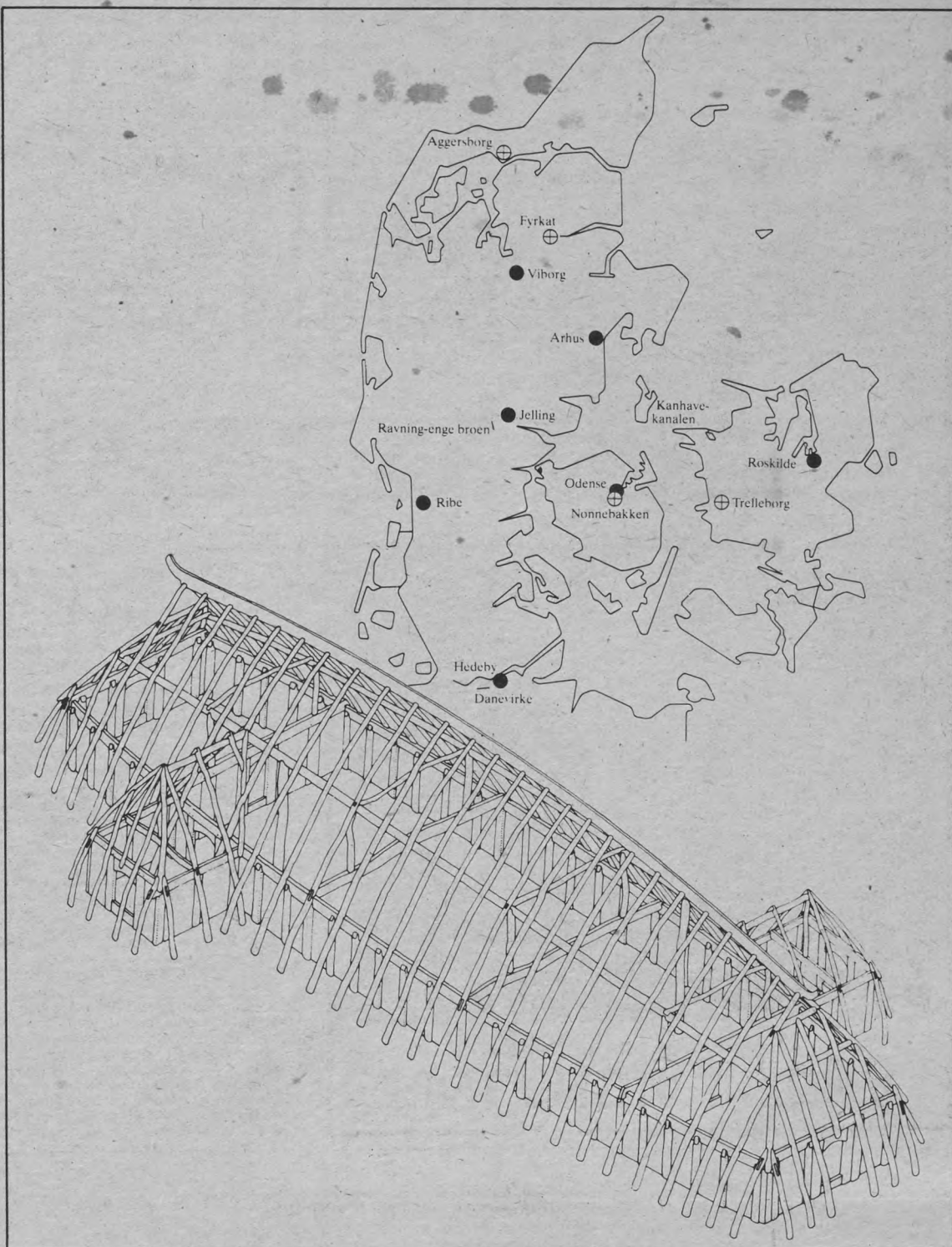
Once led into this line of thought by so authoritative a figure as Poul Norlund, scholars have had neither the will nor the ability to depart from it. Weibull, in his review of the Trelleborg publication, argued in vain that the linking of Trelleborg with the conquest of England was 'pure supposition'. Unmoved by this warning by the most critical brain in the study of Scandinavian history, Olaf Olsen declared the camps to be quite unthinkable without the twenty years of war in England. In his view, England came self-tormentingly to pay for its own conquest, in the sense that it was only through the silver he got year after year in Danegeld that Sven Forkbeard obtained the economic means to construct and man the strongholds where the final thrust against England was prepared. Also the ultra-national Danish historian Vilhelm la Cour (1883-1974), to whom it was unthinkable that anything of real value could have originated outside Denmark, found that the camps on-

ly had a meaning when seen in the context of King Sven's English policy. In England during his first expeditions, Sven came across the remains of Roman camps, which gave him the idea of having his builders incorporate the Roman camp scheme in the traditional northern European circular rampart and so create the ideal barracks, a stronghold for training a new striking force for England.

But where were the ships anchored that would transport the troops westward? Of the four camps, only Aggersborg is situated by the open sea. Why has no object of certain English origin been found in any of the camps, yet many indicating a Baltic origin? Did none of the England warriors return to base with their share of Danegeld? Why, also, such formidable ramparts surrounding constructions intended primarily for offensive action across the North Seas? Granted that the burning of Trelleborg and Fyrkat may have been due to accidental fires, who, it must be asked, shot the arrows that were embedded in the Trelleborg rampart? Scarcely warriors of Aethelred the Unready sent across the sea to smoke the fox out of its lair. Most important of all, in the elevation of the England theory almost to the status of gospel truth, it has been completely forgotten that the archaeological dating of the camps is so wide that, while it in no way excludes the possibility that they were constructed during the years when Sven Forkbeard was campaigning in England, no more does it confirm that they were. The accepted interpretation of the Danish Viking camps, properly considered, is based on a circular argument. The camps explain the conquest of England, and the conquest of England explains the camps; therefore they cannot be earlier than the 990s.

Not so. An attempt has been made, and rejected, to start a new discussion about the purpose of these camps. There was nothing to discuss, it was said. The facts are now on the table. In extensive explorations of the river valley, west of Trelleborg, scientists of the National Museum's natural science department, assisted by other, co-opted specialists, have succeeded in establishing that on the seaward side Trelleborg was surrounded by a swamp, and that no ship, nor any boat or barge, would have been able to pass between the camp and the Great Belt. This alone is a serious blow to the concept of Trelleborg as a camp for the training of ship-borne troops. What is more, in an exhaustive and systematic study of timber from the Trelleborg ramparts other members of the department have recently made a dendrochronological dating of Trelleborg based on the variations in the width of the timber's annual rings. This has established that the trees were felled in the winter half-year 980-81, 13 years before Sven ever set foot on English soil and a whole generation before the final conquest of England in 1013. Trelleborg may already have ceased to exist when the island kingdom eventually submitted.

Although it is generally assumed that the similarity between the four Danish Viking-age camps indicates roughly the same dating, the same builder and the same client,



Location of the Danish Viking camps. Most of the other places on the map are referred to elsewhere in this publication. The gigantic bridge construction at Ravning near Jelling has been dendrochronologically dated to nearly the same period as Trelleborg. Also the Kanhave Canal which bisects the island of Samsø in the Kattegat originated during the Viking period although no accurate dating has yet been made.

In no circumstance would any of the camps have enjoyed a particularly long lifespan. The wall planks of the houses were set in earth, and in the similarly constructed model house erected during the Second World War at Trelleborg the planks are now rotting to pieces. In the absence of any remedial action the house is bound to collapse within a few years. Excavations at Fyrkat and renewed explorations of Trelleborg have shown that the houses have not featured the external galleries of the reconstruction. Braces supporting the house wall were placed in the outer postholes.

studies similar to those at Trelleborg should of course — to the extent that this is possible — be made of the other camps. But as the picture stands at present it seems most reasonable to try to fit these distinctive installations into an internal Danish context. It was in the first years of the 980s that Harald Bluetooth, the father, and Sven Forkbeard, the son, were struggling for absolute control. And the conquest by little Denmark of great England remains what it was before — a mystery.



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